

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (TWICE AMENDED) A container for storing [Christmas] ornaments, said container comprising:

a box having a top, sides, back, bottom and an open front,

a front portion hinged to said bottom,

said front portion being moveable from a first position in which said front

portion closes said open front of said box to a second position in which said

front portion uncovers said open front of said box,

means for holding said front portion in said first position,

said top of said box having an inside surface and an outside surface,

support means for holding a hanger mounted on said inside surface of said top of

[said] said box, and

a hanger means for holding [Christmas] ornaments detachably secured to said

support means,

said hanger means having means for engaging said support means for securing said

hanger means on said support means,

said hanger means having a top portion and a bottom portion,

said bottom portion having a plurality of ridges [space] spaced therealong.

Please amend the following claims:

4. (AMENDED) An ornament holder, comprising:

a container having an opening and inside walls:

a closure releasably openable relative to the container, the closure adapted to enclose

the opening;

a hanger support disposed inside the container; and

a hanger removably mountable relative to the hanger support to provide an open region between the hanger and at least one of the inside walls of the container, the hanger being configured to be mountable onto and removable from the hanger support, the hanger adapted to hold an ornament, the hanger having at least one retainer disposed along the hanger intermediate ends of the hanger for limiting sliding displacement of the ornament along the hanger.

5. (AMENDED) The ornament holder of claim 4, wherein the closure is hingeably mounted to the container.

6. (AMENDED) The ornament holder of claim 4, wherein the closure is pivotally connected to the container.

7. (AMENDED) The ornament holder of claim 4, comprising a fastener to fasten the closure to the container.

9. (AMENDED) The ornament holder of claim 4, wherein the hanger comprises a support bar and the at least one retainer includes a plurality of ridges spaced therealong.

10. (AMENDED) The ornament holder of claim 9, wherein the ridges are adapted to retain an ornament to prevent the ornament from sliding along the bar.

12. (AMENDED) The ornament holder of claim 11, wherein the fingers are adapted to retain an ornament so as to enable the ornament to hang from the fingers.

16. (AMENDED) The ornament holder of claim 15 wherein the hanger comprises a rod for holding an ornament, the rod having a thickness less than the depth of the container.

18. (AMENDED) The ornament holder of claim 4, wherein the closure is mounted relative to the container and wherein the closure is moveable from a first position in which the closure covers the opening of the container to a second position which provides access inside of the container.

Please add the following claims:

- B⁷
19. (NEW) The ornament holder of claim 4 wherein the hanger is configured to be slidably mountable onto the hanger support.
20. (NEW) An ornament holder, comprising:
- A. a container having an opening and inside walls;
 - B. a closure adapted for covering the opening;
 - C. a support bar removably mountable inside the container for enabling ornaments to be removably hung on the support bar; and
 - D. a plurality of retainers spaced along the support bar, said retainers extending outwardly from the support bar to limit sliding displacement of ornaments along the support bar and to maintain a distribution of the ornaments along the length of the support bar.
21. (NEW) The ornament holder of claim 20, wherein the closure is hingeably mounted to the container.
22. (NEW) The ornament holder of claim 20, wherein the closure is pivotally connected to the container.
23. (NEW) The ornament holder of claim 22, wherein the closure is movable between a first position, in which the closure covers the opening of the container, and a second position, in which the opening is exposed to provide access inside of the container.
24. (NEW) The ornament holder of claim 20, comprising a releasable fastener to fasten the closure to the container.

- B 7
25. (NEW) The ornament holder of claim 20, comprising a hanger support mounted on at least one of the inside walls of the container, said hanger support comprising two or more support mounts for removably supporting the support bar inside the container.
26. (NEW) The ornament holder of claim 25, wherein the support mounts comprise a pair of hooks connected to at least one of the inside walls in the container.
27. (NEW) The ornament holder of claim 25, wherein the support mounts are centrally located on one of the inside walls to support the support bar in a position spaced away from the other inside walls and the opening.
28. (NEW) The ornament holder of claim 20, wherein the retainers comprise a series of ridges extending outwardly from the support bar and forming a plurality of shortened spans on the support bar between the ridges, said spans being adapted to support the ornaments, and said ridges being adapted to limit sliding displacement of the ornaments on the spans.
29. (NEW) The ornament holder of claim 20, wherein the retainers comprise a series of fingers extending outwardly and generally perpendicularly from the support bar.
30. (NEW) The ornament holder of claim 20 comprising a handle on the exterior of the container.
31. (NEW) The ornament holder of claim 20, comprising a hanger support disposed on the inside walls of the container and wherein the support bar is configured to be slidably mountable on the hanger support.
-

STATUS OF ALL CLAIMS PURSUANT TO 37 C.F.R. § 1.173(c)

Claims 1 - 30 are pending in this response application.

Claims 1-3 have been allowed and are pending in the reissue application. Claim 1 has been amended to delete the adjective "Christmas" from the noun "ornaments". At column 2, line 17, the ornaments are generally described as "items" of which Christmas Ornaments are cited as a specific example. Consequently, there is support in the specification to amend the claims to cover ornaments in addition to Christmas Ornaments.

Claims 4-18 were added as new claims in a preliminary amendment when the reissue application was originally filed and are all pending in the reissue application.

Claims 4, 5, 6, 7 and 18 have been amended to change the term "cover section" to "closure". Support is provided at column 2, lines 4-9, where the patent discloses that the front 6 can be opened and that a fastener 10 is provided on the top 2 to fasten the front 6 closed. As such, the front 6 serves as a closure. Claim 4 was also amended to recite "the hanger being configured to be mountable onto and removable from the hanger support." Support for this amendment is provided at column 2, lines 18-20. Finally, claim 4 was amended to recite that the hanger includes "at least one retainer disposed along the hanger for limiting sliding displacement of the ornaments along the hanger." Support is provided at column 2, lines 20-33 which discloses both ridges and fingers and provides that the ridges prevent the ornaments from sliding along the hanger.

Claim 9 was amended to recite that the hanger has "a support bar" and the retainer has "a plurality of ridges spaced therealong." Support for this claim is provided at column 2, lines 16 - 36 and Fig. 2.

Claim 10 was amended to recite that the ridges "prevent the ornaments from sliding along the bar." Support for this amendment is provided at column 2, lines 23-28.

Claim 12 was amended to recite that the fingers enable the ornament to hang from the finger. Support for this amendment is found at column 2, lines 30-33.

Claim 16 was amended to effect the editorial revision requested by the Examiner.

New Claims 19-30 have been added by this amendment and are pending in the reissue application. Support for these new claims is found in Figs. 1 and 2 and at column 1, line 59 to column 2, line 36.